Man and Microbes
Spring 2023

Credits: 1
Course number: IDH 2930, Class Number: 27833
Schedule: Wednesday, period 7 (1:55 pm – 2:45 pm)
Location: Hume 119

Instructor
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Course description
“Man and Microbes” by Arno Karlen is a wonderful book and is a very timely one to read in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. It describes the history of humanity as viewed through the prism of epidemics and pandemics. The book deals with the question of how diseases arise, frequently jumping from animals to humans, and how they evolve and why. The book also places disease as a central actor in the history of civilization, which is a perspective many students will not have considered in other humanities or science courses. From ancient Rome and China to the influenza pandemic of 1918 that killed millions, “Man and Microbes” is a great introduction to the field of epidemiology and a great way to simply learn the history of humanity as well as population biology. It is written by an erudite, who is not only a writer but also a scientist. The book is written in clear and accessible language, making it a page-turner, despite occasional gruesome details that are inevitable considering the subject matter.

The course is based on reading the book, one chapter (= 12-20 pages) per week and discussing it in class.

Objectives and basis for grading

Class discussion

Grading
% by activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>% of final grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class discussions</td>
<td>50</td>
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</tbody>
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A  = 95-100%
A- = 90-94%
B  = 85-89%
B- = 80-84%
C  = 75-79%
C- = 70-74%
D  = 65-69%
D- = 60-64%
E  = <60%
Current UF grading policies
See: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Class attendance, work and exam policies
Students are expected to attend all classes unless there are valid reasons for absence, and part of the grade will reflect class attendance. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

Textbook (required)

CLASS READING ASSIGNMENTS

**WEEK 1**
January 11
Purchase and bring to class “Man and Microbes”

**WEEK 2**
January 18
CLASS DISCUSSION: *Man and Microbes*: pp. 1-12 (Ch1)

**WEEK 3**
January 25
CLASS DISCUSSION: *Man and Microbes*: pp. 13-28 (Ch2)

**WEEK 4**
February 1
CLASS DISCUSSION: *Man and Microbes*: pp. 29-46 (Ch3)

**WEEK 5**
February 8
CLASS DISCUSSION: *Man and Microbes*: pp. 47-64 (Ch4)

**WEEK 6**
February 15
CLASS DISCUSSION: *Man and Microbes*: pp. 65-78 (Ch5)

**WEEK 7**
February 22
CLASS DISCUSSION: *Man and Microbes*: pp. 79-92 (Ch6)

**WEEK 8**
March 1
CLASS DISCUSSION: *Man and Microbes*: pp. 93-110 (Ch7)

**WEEK 9**
March 8
CLASS DISCUSSION: *Man and Microbes*: pp. 111-128 (Ch8)

**WEEK 10**
March 15
Spring break
WEEK 11
March 22
CLASS DISCUSSION: *Man and Microbes*: pp. 129-148 (Ch9)

WEEK 12
March 29
CLASS DISCUSSION: *Man and Microbes*: pp. 149-174 (Ch10)

WEEK 13
April 5
CLASS DISCUSSION: *Man and Microbes*: pp. 175-194 (Ch11)

WEEK 14
April 12
CLASS DISCUSSION: *Man and Microbes*: pp. 195-214 (Ch12)

WEEK 15
April 19
CLASS DISCUSSION: *Man and Microbes*: pp. 215-230 (Ch13)

WEEK 15
April 19
CLASS DISCUSSION: *Final assessment*